Sports Authority of India has adopted 48 schools for admitting these children.

(b) The benefits provided to the talent spotted by the Sports Authority of India are as follows:—

The young children selected are offered admission in the specially adopted Schools.

The children are provided specialised training in sports under the guidance of trained coaches.

The entire expenditure on board & lodging, kit, books and stationery school unforms and allied expenses are borne by the SAI.

Weak children are given extra tuition for which expenditure is borne by SAI.

The SAI selected children are also called to special All India Camps during their vacations in Schools where they are given intensive training.

Replacement of Dornier aircraft

2654. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot is considering to replace Dornier by AN—28 aircrafts; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revision of Telephone Charges

2655. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise telephone charges for the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the measures Government propose to take to make telephone calls, especially trunk calls cheaper for rural users;

(c) whether Government also propose to revise the concessional rates between 7 P.M. and 7 A.M.; and

(d) the reasons for ignoring the rural phone users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Considering the amount of Capital outlay required, cost of labour and other inputs for maintenance, the existing rentals of phones in rural areas are not high. Further, in rural areas, the flat rate system is in operation and the rent is inclusive of charges for local calls.

(b) As the present rates are not high, the Government has no proposal to grant concessions in trunk call rates for rural areas.

(c) The concessional rates for trunk calls are available between 22.00 hours and 05 00 hours and there is no proposal to revise this concessional tariff.

(d) The telecommunication services are provided to rural subscribers on a high subsidy and the Government is making every effect to improve and expand telecommunications services in rural areas.

AIDS Cases in Orissa

2656. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cases of AIDS have been reported from Orissa;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the adequate detection facilities to screen the foreigners bringing this disease to our country;

(c) what steps our embassies abroad take to ensure that prospective visitors to India carry certificates showing that they are free from AIDS;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether other countries insist on health certificates from the Third World for diseases that they fear may be brought to their soil like Smallpox, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No.

(b) Taking into consideration the various epidemiological factors involved in transmission of AIDS disease, recommendations of the World Health Organisation for its prevention and control, the availability of expertise and resources, the Government has taken adequate steps in establishment of diagnostic facilities for AIDS for screening of high risk persons and foreigners in the country. At present, foreign students before admission in Indian universities are required to undergo AIDS test.

The Government has also decided to screen foreigners for AIDS who intend to stay for more than one year, except those working in missions.

(c) and (d) No such instructions have been given to our embassies to ensure that the prospective visitors to India carry HIV free certificate. However the government has decided to accept the HIV free certificate issued from the WHO collaborating centres for AIDS.

(e) Every country has its own requirement regarding health certificates from foreigners This mostly relates to Yellow Fever and Cholera. Some countries are now insisting on HIV free certificates from the foreigners who seek employment or immigration or who intend to stay for long time.

Travelling by Train by Senior Railway Officers

2657. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for senior railway officers to travel by train every month in their respective sectors to study the facilities provided by railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that this convention of railway travel has been off late abandoned; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring about such conventions which will improve railway functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Instructions already exist for all railway officers to check various aspects of passenger amenities during the course of their inspections.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे मजदूर संघ द्वारा आयोजित भूख-हड़ताल

2658. **श्री चतुरानन मिश्र** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) या अखिल भारतीय मजदूर कांग्रेस से सम्बद्ध पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे मजदूर संघ ने पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के सोनपुर खण्ड रेलवे प्रबन्धक के कार्यालय के सामने 1 अगस्त से 9 अगस्त तक एक सामूहिक भूख हड़ताल की थी तथा 9 अगस्त, को प्रदर्शन किया था, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त ज्ञापन में क्या-क्या मांगें शामिल है और उनपर रेलवे-प्रशासन की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?